

## AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-63, and add new claims 64-97, as follows:

Claims 1-63 (Canceled).

64. (New) A method of forming a wound dressing, which method comprises forming a protein polymer by reacting a protein with an alkylene dicarboxylic acid spacer of the formula



in which n is from 3 to 8, or an activated derivative thereof.

65. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 64, wherein the protein polymer is formed *in situ*.
66. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 64, wherein the protein polymer is formed prior to application.
67. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 66, wherein a supporting substrate is incorporated into the dressing.
68. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 64, further comprising the application to the wound dressing of a vapour-permeable membrane.
69. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 64, wherein the protein is albumin.
70. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 69, wherein the albumin is human serum albumin.
71. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 64, wherein the protein is a recombinant product.
72. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 64, wherein the spacer is activated to facilitate reaction with the protein molecules.
73. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 72, wherein the spacer is activated with a carbodiimide compound.

74. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 72, wherein the spacer is activated with ethyl[dimethylaminopropyl]-carbodiimide.
75. (New) A wound dressing comprising a protein polymer formed by reacting a protein with an alkylene dicarboxylic acid spacer of the formula



in which n is from 3 to 8, or an activated derivative thereof.

76. (New) A wound dressing as claimed in Claim 75, which comprises a bandage impregnated with the protein polymer.
77. (New) A wound dressing as claimed in Claim 75, which is in the form of a gel sheet.
78. (New) A wound dressing as claimed in Claim 77, in which the gel sheet has a supporting substrate.
79. (New) A wound dressing as claimed in Claim 75, which further comprises one or more therapeutically active agents.
80. (New) A wound dressing as claimed in Claim 79, wherein the therapeutically active agents are selected from the group consisting of antibiotics, antivirals, anti-inflammatory agents, pain killers, haemostatic agents, phages, growth factors, anti-scarring agents, odour-absorbing agents, and agents that promote angiogenesis.
81. (New) A method of forming a protein polymer, which method comprises reacting albumin with an alkylene dicarboxylic acid spacer of the formula



in which n is from 3 to 8, or an activated derivative thereof.

82. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 81, wherein the protein is human serum albumin.
83. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 81, wherein the dicarboxylic acid is activated with a carbodiimide activating agent.

84. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 83, wherein the dicarboxylic acid is activated with ethyl[dimethylaminopropyl]-carbodiimide.
85. (New) A protein polymer formed by reacting albumin with an alkylene dicarboxylic acid spacer of the formula



in which n is from 3 to 8, or an activated derivative thereof.

86. (New) A protein polymer as claimed in Claim 85, which is in the form of a solution.
87. (New) A protein polymer as claimed in Claim 85, which is in the form of insoluble particles.
88. (New) A protein polymer as claimed in Claim 85, which is in the form of a gel.
89. (New) A protein polymer as claimed in Claim 85, wherein the protein polymer is conjugated with one or more clotting agents or active peptide derivatives.
90. (New) A protein polymer as claimed in Claim 85, which polymer is conjugated to a therapeutically active agent, or a precursor thereof, or to a contrast agent, and to a targeting moiety having an affinity with a specific locus within the body.
91. (New) A kit for the preparation of a wound dressing according to Claim 75, which kit comprises a first composition and a second composition, the first composition and the second composition being held in separate containers such that reaction between the first composition and the second composition is prevented.
92. (New) A method of treatment of the human or animal body, which method comprises the administration to the body of a protein polymer as claimed in Claim 85.
93. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 92, wherein the protein polymer is administered topically.

94. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 92, wherein the protein polymer is administered in the form of a solution.
95. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 93, wherein the protein polymer is administered in the form of a powder.
96. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 93, wherein the protein polymer is administered in the form of a gel.
97. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 93, wherein the albumin and the dicarboxylic acid spacer are administered to the body, such that the protein polymer is formed in situ.